

Application Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
Preliminary Amendment Dated: July 9, 2003
Continuation of: 09/223,111

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 47 (Canceled)

48. (new). A wafer track system to reduce the effects of thermal crosstalk arising from handling semiconductor wafers with wide-ranging temperature ranges comprising:

a wafer processing section including:

a first wafer process station containing wafer processing stacks of process modules which are positioned along selected portions of a predetermined polygonal configuration substantially surrounding a first main wafer transporter; and

a second wafer process station containing wafer processing stacks of process modules which are positioned along selected portions of a predetermined polygonal configuration substantially surrounding a second main wafer transporter;

a cassette end section (CES) for storing wafer cassettes that is positioned adjacent to each of the wafer process stations, the CES including at least one cassette wafer transporter for transferring semiconductor wafers between the CES and at least one wafer processing stack associated with each wafer process station and beyond the predetermined polygonal configuration of each wafer process station; and

a stepper interface section (SI) for enabling external access to the wafer track system cassettes that is positioned adjacent to each of the wafer process stations, the SIS including at least one stepper wafer transporter for transferring semiconductor wafers between the SIS and at least one wafer processing stack associated with each wafer process station and beyond the polygonal configuration of each wafer process station,

wherein the first and the second main wafer transporters are each configured for transporting semiconductor wafers into a wafer bake module within a wafer processing stack in each respective wafer process station, and wherein the cassette and the stepper wafer transporters are configured for transporting semiconductor wafers out of the wafer bake module with the wafer processing stack for each respective wafer process station.

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49. (new). The wafer track system as recited in claim 48, wherein the first wafer process station and the second wafer process station include at least two process modules which process semiconductor wafers at different wafer processing temperatures.

50. (new). The wafer track system as recited in claim 48, wherein the distance between the first main wafer transporter and each of the process modules within its respective wafer processing stacks is substantially equal.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of this application on the merits. Since the present amendment does not introduce new matter, Applicants respectfully request its entry prior to examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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